



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 14, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: The heat once again pummeled the Commonwealth this past week as temperatures soared into the 90's with the heat index topping out over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in many places. Rainfall was minimal, at best, and now there are reports of irreparable damage to crops in some parts of the state due to the hot, dry weather. Any potential relief from the remnants of Hurricane Irene looks slim as the storm drifts farther and farther out into the Atlantic Ocean away from the shore. Many producers will try and get the weather off their minds this week by enjoying Ag Progress Days in State College. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, baling straw, harvesting oats, harvesting peaches and apples, spreading fertilizer, tending to livestock, and preparing to cut silage.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 14, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
43	37	20	0

Crops: Seventy-two percent of the soybean crop is now setting pods, ahead of last year and well ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean conditions declined slightly from a week ago as 65 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Corn is 97 percent silked, 16 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the corn crop is in the dough stage, and 7 percent of the crop is dented. Both figures are well behind last year's pace. Corn crop conditions fell even further from last week as only 50 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-nine percent of oats are ripe, and 83 percent of the crop is harvested. Both categories are well ahead of the historic pace. Nine percent of potatoes and 10 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested, both behind last year's pace. Eleven percent of barley has been planted. Seventy-two percent of the 3rd cutting of alfalfa is now complete, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the 2nd cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 45

percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

The apple crop continues to look great as 88 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Fifty-six percent of the peach crop has now been harvested as well as 21 percent of the apple crop. Both figures are on pace for this time of year.

Livestock: Pasture conditions worsened from last week and are now rated with the following: 40 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 8 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

U.S. As of August 7, 2005: Highlights: Warm weather prevailed across most of the Nation, with high temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit across much of the Great Plains. Only in parts of the Southeast, southern Great Plains, Southwest, and central Rocky Mountains did temperatures average below normal. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather dominated the Corn Belt, further depleting soil moisture in the region. Dry weather continued to pressure irrigation supplies in the Pacific Coast States. Across the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, rainfall was widely scattered and light to moderate. Corn: Ninety-seven percent of the crop was at or beyond the silk stage, compared with 92 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. The dough stage, at 44 percent complete, was 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Denting advanced to 10 percent complete, 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind the average. Silking was complete in Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee and nearly complete in all States, except Colorado, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 95 percent complete, 4 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal. Pods were setting on 76 percent of the acreage, compared with 66 percent last year and 63 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Ninety-four percent of the acreage had been harvested, 3 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all areas, except the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountain region. Small Grains: Oat growers had harvested 71 percent of their acreage, 19 points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 14, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 14, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	93	59	76	6	0.90	3	12.09	-3.82	47	2,024	302	3,198
Franklin	91	59	75	6	0.86	5	15.44	-3.25	76	1,844	211	3,066
Meadville	89	61	75	8	1.55	2	15.85	-2.34	54	1,927	431	3,145
Mercer	92	60	76	7	0.72	5	16.51	-1.11	73	1,895	278	3,095
Springboro	91	51	74	4	0.32	4	15.41	-0.54	60	1,760	42	2,918
Warren	91	55	75	7	1.46	3	13.01	-5.40	55	1,814	223	3,016
North Central												
Bradford Region	87	54	70	7	0.43	3	16.22	-2.38	60	1,429	261	2,558
Emporium	93	58	76	11	0.68	2	10.98	-7.94	56	1,816	511	3,019
Kane	88	51	71	7	0.22	1	12.43	-6.30	51	1,377	226	2,497
Laporte	89	63	73	5	1.40	3	17.07	-0.19	63	1,652	17	2,811
Lock Haven	100	64	79	10	0.04	1	8.86	-8.08	46	2,072	343	3,325
Port Allegany	89	56	73	8	0.45	2	11.16	-6.45	49	1,573	283	2,706
Renovo	96	64	78	8	1.41	2	7.95	-8.99	45	2,041	312	3,293
Ridgway	91	57	73	8	0.22	1	13.35	-5.57	54	1,582	277	2,759
Stevenson Dam	90	60	76	11	0.78	4	10.83	-8.09	57	1,915	610	3,149
Towanda	95	58	78	9	1.83	2	12.28	-2.01	47	1,914	266	3,130
Wellsboro	90	57	73	9	0.54	2	16.12	1.69	49	1,549	312	2,681
Williamsport	96	66	78	7	2.09	2	16.68	-0.25	41	2,213	303	3,477
Northeast												
Hawley	93	58	75	8	1.81	2	14.70	-1.46	49	1,715	310	2,895
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	97	66	79	9	0.04	1	11.10	-4.81	47	2,233	416	3,497
Susquehanna	90	60	76	10	3.18	4	16.00	-1.34	58	1,824	476	3,021
West Central												
Butler	93	60	76	7	0.15	2	14.07	-3.56	53	1,945	252	3,209
New Castle	96	60	77	9	0.36	1	16.14	0.03	52	2,098	400	3,358
Slippery Rock	93	61	76	9	0.02	1	16.01	-1.09	53	1,947	414	3,221
Central												
Altoona/Blair	95	60	75	5	0.47	3	8.89	-6.75	34	1,892	75	3,135
DuBois	92	61	75	7	0.53	4	12.56	-5.08	67	1,780	201	3,005
Lewistown	97	65	78	6	0.20	1	12.62	-4.32	44	2,186	196	3,471
Middletown	97	67	80	5	0.09	3	13.70	-2.70	41	2,536	291	3,861
Prince Gallitzi	92	59	73	7	1.97	2	13.61	-6.46	56	1,682	230	2,878
Selinsgrove	98	65	78	7	0.58	4	14.11	-2.86	46	2,106	242	3,371
State College	95	66	77	7	0.33	3	8.74	-6.89	49	2,091	292	3,365
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	97	63	78	5	0.56	3	16.90	-0.61	49	2,262	204	3,561
Lehighton	95	65	78	6	0.34	3	16.38	-1.11	49	2,070	83	3,348
Matamoras	94	61	75	5	1.11	2	14.61	-3.44	53	1,818	18	3,037
Tobyhanna	94	64	77	12	1.11	6	18.42	-0.48	73	2,021	785	3,287
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	95	66	79	9	2.00	3	11.96	-4.75	56	2,345	521	3,654
Derry	93	61	76	7	1.61	2	16.10	-1.18	50	1,970	255	3,236
Myersdale	90	60	72	3	0.40	2	13.49	-5.53	47	1,525	-148	2,698
Mount Pleasant	93	61	76	8	0.63	3	16.81	-2.56	61	1,928	405	3,197
Pittsburgh Intl	94	63	78	8	0.08	1	15.18	-0.53	53	2,220	312	3,512
Rector	92	63	76	8	0.82	4	15.58	-3.79	73	1,918	395	3,184
Waynesburg	95	62	77	7	0.41	3	13.34	-3.86	48	1,995	230	3,273
South Central												
Biglerville	95	65	78	4	0.48	4	16.07	0.96	50	2,239	43	3,542
Everett	93	59	73	3	0.91	2	8.99	-6.25	45	1,550	-244	2,749
Hanover	94	64	78	4	0.66	5	18.41	3.30	46	2,221	25	3,515
Shippensburg	95	66	78	4	0.75	5	17.68	2.54	53	2,277	96	3,568
South Mountain	90	62	74	4	2.19	5	16.03	0.39	45	1,954	144	3,257
York	95	64	78	5	1.25	4	11.95	-4.78	36	2,252	66	3,545
Southeast												
Green Lane	96	67	79	7	0.55	2	14.70	-2.44	42	2,250	289	3,556
Hamburg	95	65	78	7	1.69	4	16.48	-3.65	44	2,276	481	3,576
Hopewell	96	67	79	4	0.93	5	18.34	0.49	63	2,263	-40	3,571
Lancaster	95	68	79	6	0.46	3	18.40	0.79	43	2,308	242	3,612
Neshaminy Falls	96	67	79	6	0.23	2	18.45	-1.59	37	2,127	78	3,408
New Holland	97	66	80	7	0.85	2	15.02	-2.59	42	2,361	295	3,669
Philadelphia	97	72	82	7	1.32	3	15.62	-1.53	41	2,624	262	3,971
Philadelphia NE	96	71	82	6	0.13	3	18.36	1.21	41	2,564	202	3,900
Reading	97	66	80	7	0.40	4	15.04	-3.58	45	2,434	404	3,744
Valley Forge Na	98	66	79	4	0.16	3	16.04	-1.81	31	2,139	-164	3,415
Willow Grove	94	69	80	8	0.01	1	16.35	-3.69	34	2,374	325	3,696

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County received various amounts of rainfall throughout the county on Sunday, August 7th. Most of the county had at least an inch but some had as much as 3 to 4 inches in the New Oxford, Littlestown, McSherrystown, and Hanover areas. That area also had hail the size of quarters with some severe thunderstorms and high winds. The York Springs area did not receive any rainfall during that storm. On Tuesday the county received some very light rain. As a whole, the county is still dry in most areas. The crops seem to be doing okay for now with most corn already tasseled and having at least one, if not two, ears per stock. Soybeans have pods developing and growing taller. Peaches continue to be harvested, and some early varieties of apples are also starting to be harvested.

BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT) - Hot conditions continue. A welcome rain came Monday. Some lodging of soybeans with rain and wind from last week. Hay harvest continues with low yields but high quality. Downy mildew now present in the pumpkin crop.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Monday, we averaged approximately 2 to 3 inches of rain. It helped the crops, but hot, humid weather dries it out quickly. It caused some washouts in the potato fields. A few scattered showers popped up throughout the week but did not amount to much rainfall.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It continues to be very dry. One shower resulted in .2 of an inch of rain. We are past helping the corn crop; showers would help grass crops.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Crops have gone backwards in the last week. Most corn has ears so it won't be a complete failure, but yield has to be reduced. Stalks are turning brown and may not have enough moisture to chop for silage. Soybeans have pods but lack moisture to fill them. We need rain soon or they could be a disaster.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - A hot and humid week with scattered showers slowed haymaking. Most of the small grain crops have been harvested, and corn and soybeans are looking good. Farmers are finishing up projects before they take a break for the Crawford County Fair that is starting next week.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Scattered thunderstorms have not brought much rain that is needed after a week of very high temperatures. Soybean aphid populations are at or nearing threshold levels. Downy mildew is getting worse on soybeans.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT) - The corn crop is starting to dent, and there appears to be only a narrow difference between the earliest planted crop and later plantings. It should be a hectic silage harvest season. Silage harvest will probably begin in the next two weeks in many locations. Spotty showers around the area, but soil conditions are not good.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren Counties did get rain. The storms were scattered, and some areas got a lot of rain in a short amount of time. Crops, for the most part, need water. The second and third hay crops are well below normal yields. Corn and soybean yields appear to be below normal in growth compared to last year at this time.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - Many farmers and ag dealers are more aware of soybean disease this season. I haven't seen any more diseases but have been getting more questions. Late season weed escapes seem to be more prevalent in corn fields this season. Soybean aphids and potato leafhoppers continue to be active in the fields.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Crop stress is more visible with another hot, humid week.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Drought conditions continue to degrade crop potential. Harvested vegetable yields are down 20 to 60 percent from normal.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Welcome rains came Monday, from half an inch to 3 inches; the heat was on after that. Extreme heat continues to stress crops, livestock, and people. Crops responded well to the rain but more is needed soon.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Dry conditions persist throughout most of the county. Sporadic showers have been keeping crops alive, but yields have been affected. Short season corn is drying down rapidly, and longer season corn is lacking ear size.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - The week was very hot, humid, and hazy for the most part. A small section of the county received some showers during mid-week. However, the remainder of the county is very dry. The corn is suffering with some fields showing signs of severe stress. The soybeans appear to be doing fine; however, there are some blooms that are not setting pods. This was a good week for making quality hay of reduced yields. Haymaking and preparing the silage making equipment were the main activities for the week.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Weekend thunderstorms brought relief to many parts of the county. Some areas are seeing more rain than others. Some corn that died due to a lack of rain is being chopped for silage.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Producers have told me that their second cutting was below their expected yield. Dairy farmers have told me that they believe corn yields will be reduced by the recent dryness and that even a soaking rain now will not prevent a reduction in corn yields.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Widespread rain of an inch or less on Monday provided some temporary relief from the drought conditions in a few spots. Continued hot conditions quickly undid any benefit from the early-week moisture. Corn, soybean, and hay yield potential continues to decline with each passing dry day. There is still maybe one-third of the county where yield could be average or better. A few producers are beginning to report corn pollination problems from the hot, dry conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 14, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	10	7	7
Corn, silk	97	89	83
Corn, dough	42	64	47
Corn, dent	7	27	13
Barley, planted	11	0	0
Oats, ripe	99	88	85
Oats, harvested	83	64	60
Tobacco, harvested	10	19	7
Potatoes, harvested	9	17	13
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	72	42	46
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	66	52	52
Peaches, harvested	56	57	56
Apples, harvested	21	22	15

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 14, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	16	27	37	13
Soybeans	3	8	24	51	14
Quality of hay made	2	6	30	45	17
Pasture	40	26	25	8	1
Apples	3	3	6	57	31

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